

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 16 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented file management system, comprising:
 - a proxy file system for managing a plurality of proxy files, wherein the plurality of proxy files are associated with counterpart data files in a shared storage larger in size than and remote from the proxy file system and essentially include information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage, ~~the shared storage comprising a port to receive access via a network from a plurality of clients and one or more structured data archives distributed among one or more network-based data processing systems, and the accessing information comprising~~ including information indicating locations of the counterpart files on the shared storage; and
 - a controller for controlling access by the plurality of clients to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the access information included in the proxy file system.
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the controller is configured to:
 - recognize attempts by the clients to access the counterpart data files in the shared storage;
 - retrieve from the proxy files the information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage in response to the access attempts; and
 - provide the clients with access to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the access information retrieved from the proxy files.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system comprises a non-sharable file system running on a local disk coupled to the controller.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system comprises at least one module to facilitate at least one of the following functions: security, locking, file sharing, and change notifications.
7. (canceled)
8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a server.
9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises:
 - an allocator module for allocating and de-allocating portions of the shared storage to the counterpart data files; and
 - a network interface module for facilitating communications with the plurality of clients.
10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the allocator module comprises program code for managing a plurality of allocation units.
11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the allocation units indicate locations of portions of the shared storage allocated to information in the counterpart data files.
12. (canceled)
13. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of clients include software for communicating with the controller and the shared storage.
14. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a secondary controller configured to mirror the controller and replace the controller if the controller is disabled.
15. (original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a secondary proxy file system coupled to the secondary controller.

16. (currently amended) A computer-implemented file management method, comprising:
managing a plurality of proxy files, wherein the plurality of proxy files are associated with counterpart data files in a shared storage larger in size than and remote from the proxy file system and include information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage, ~~the shared storage comprising a port to receive access via a network from a plurality of clients and one or more structured data archives distributed among one or more network-based data processing systems, and the accessing information comprising~~ including information indicating locations of the counterpart files on the shared storage; and
controlling access by ~~the~~ a plurality of clients to the counterpart data files in the shared storage via the proxy files.
17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein controlling access comprises providing the clients with access to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the access information included in the proxy files.
18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein providing the clients with access to the counterpart data files comprises providing the clients with information indicating locations of the counterpart files on the shared storage.
19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein controlling access to the counterpart data files comprises:
recognizing attempts by the clients to access the counterpart data files in the shared storage;
retrieving from the proxy files the information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage in response to the access attempts; and
providing the clients with access to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the information retrieved from the proxy files.

20-43. (canceled)

44. (new) The file management system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system dynamically updates the plurality of proxy files to reflect changes in the counterpart data files.